

## 'Go get the shot': Biden highlights path back to normal

By ZEKE MILLER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden spent his first 100 days in office encouraging Americans to mask up and stay home to slow the spread of the coronavirus. His task for the next 100 days will be to lay out the path back to normal. When he entered office, Biden moved swiftly to overcome problems with vaccine supply and more than tripled the country's ability to administer them. But ending the coronavirus pandemic, the central challenge of his presidency, will require not only putting shots into arms — a task now growing more difficult as demand sags — but also a robust plan to help the nation emerge from a year of isolation, disruption and confusion. If Biden launched the nation onto a war footing against a virus that infected nearly 200,000 Americans in January and killed about 3,000 of them per day, the next months will be tantamount to winning the peace. Already, deaths are down to fewer than 700 per day, and average daily cases are below 60,000. U.S. officials insist there is a long way to go before the country can be fully at ease, but the progress is marked.

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President Joe Biden responds to a question from reporters about COVID-19, on the North Lawn of the White House, Tuesday, April 27, 2021, in Washington.

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## ‘Go get the shot’: Biden highlights path back to normal

Continued from Front

Going forward, success will mean finishing the nation's herculean vaccination campaign — to date, 43% of Americans have received at least one shot — overcoming lagging demand and communicating in clear terms what activities can be safely resumed by those who are vaccinated. Key milestones include Biden's July Fourth pledge that Americans can safely gather with friends and family, and the start of the new school year, when the president hopes to have all schools open safely.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday unveiled new guidance lessening requirements for outdoor mask-wearing, especially for vaccinated people.

“We're excited about the progress we've made, and the opportunity ahead of us, and because of the vaccination program we built we're further along than almost anyone predicted,” said White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients in a Monday interview. “It means we're closer to returning to normal.”

Highlighting the new guidelines at the White House on Tuesday, Biden said the vaccines are increasingly helping America “get back to more normal living,” and he promised more details next week on making that possible. It's part of what officials said will be a focus



In this Wednesday, March 3, 2021 file photo, people wearing face masks as a precaution against the coronavirus walk through a shaft of light on a street in Philadelphia.

in the coming weeks on easing restrictions for vaccinated people, both in recognition of their lower risk and as an incentive to get shots.

“Getting together with friends, going to the park for a picnic without needing to mask up, we're back to that place now as long as you get vaccinated,” Biden said. “So go get the shot.”

In a first, Biden, who has sought to model the most cautious behavior for the public, provided an example of how the new guidance is liberating. Biden walked outside the White House alone wearing a black face mask before his remarks on the North

Lawn. He removed it for his remarks and didn't replace it after leaving the lectern, saying he wanted Americans to watch “me take it off and not put it back on until I walk back inside.”

On Inauguration Day, the notion of COVID-19 vaccine supply eclipsing demand seemed fanciful, with only priority groups eligible for shots and an underground economy emerging for “extra doses” for everyone else.

Now, shots are so plentiful in many places that the Biden administration is encouraging states and pharmacy partners to set up walk-in sites for doses without appointments.

This “new phase,” as

Biden's team calls it, has been the subject of intense preparation since even before the president's inauguration. Wary of wasting a moment, Zients and other officials drafted a mountain of emails to launch the federal bureaucracy into action to be sent in the first minutes after their government email accounts were activated. Even as more Americans get vaccinated, Zients said, the White House wasn't letting up its urgency just yet.

“I think this exact same approach that served us well the first 100 days will serve us well for the next 100 days,” he said.

One of Biden's first actions in office was to increase

the federal government's orders for the vaccines to ensure supplies for all Americans by early summer. Now the U.S. is able to turn to sharing some of the precious supply with the world, as the White House announced Monday it would do with roughly 60 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine produced in the U.S. but not yet authorized for use here. At the same time, the White House was instrumental in an agreement reached with drug-maker Sanofi on Monday to help scale up production through next year of Moderna's two-dose shot, which makes up more than 40% of doses administered in the U.S.

Believing most Americans who have yet to get a shot would do so if it were easier, the White House has deployed billions of dollars toward ads encouraging shots, community programs to bring doses to the hardest to reach Americans, and tax credits to encourage employers to give their workers paid time off to get protected.

“In this next phase we'll focus on increasing accessibility, building confidence, continuing to put equity at the center of everything we do,” Zients said of the push to maximize the number of Americans vaccinated in coming months. “It's not going to be easy, but neither was getting to 200 million shots in less than 100 days, and we did that.” □





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# U.S. orders big drawdown at Kabul embassy as troops leave

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The State Department on Tuesday ordered a significant number of its remaining staff at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul to leave Afghanistan as the military steps up the pullout of American troops from the country.

The order came as the U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan told lawmakers that it no longer made sense to continue the 20-year deployment of American troops there. At the same time, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said he shared lawmakers' concerns that the rights of women and minorities could be jeopardized after the withdrawal is complete.

"We should all remain concerned that those rights could suffer," Khalilzad told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Asked if the U.S. would retain any leverage to protect those rights once its troops are gone, Khalilzad was circumspect. He said aid and other types of diplomatic support "would be not available if they did not respect the human rights of Afghan women or others." Shortly before he spoke, the State Department said it had instructed all personnel to depart unless their jobs require them to be physically located in Afghanistan. The order was not specific as to the number of people affected, but it went well beyond the usual curtailment of staffers



Secretary of State Antony Blinken participates in a virtual bilateral meeting with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta at the State Department in Washington, Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

Associated Press

for security and safety reasons. Such orders normally apply only to non-essential personnel.

In an updated travel advisory for Afghanistan, the department said it had ordered the departure of all U.S. government employees "whose functions can be performed elsewhere." It also said American citizens should not travel to Afghanistan and those there who want to depart "should leave as soon as possible on available commercial flights."

The embassy in Kabul is heavily dependent on the U.S. military for security, and staff drawdowns had been underway since the Trump administration had announced last year that American troops would be

withdrawn from Afghanistan by May 1.

The Biden administration extended that deadline until Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks, but has accelerated the pullout.

The top U.S. diplomat in Kabul said the departure order was issued "due to increasing violence and threat reports," would affect only a relatively small number of employees, and there would be no reduction in services offered. Charge d'affaires Ross Wilson said it "ensures that American diplomacy and support for Afghanistan will be sustainable, robust, and effective."

Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, head of the U.S. Central Command, said Tuesday

the administration remains committed to keeping a functioning embassy in Kabul. "It is our intention to maintain an embassy in Afghanistan going forward. But we'll have a very, very minimal military presence there — that which is strictly necessary to defend the embassy," he said in remarks to the American Enterprise Institute.

The State Department order came just two days after Gen. Austin Miller, America's top general in Afghanistan, said the U.S. military had begun closing down operations in the country and that Afghanistan's security forces had to be ready to take over. While the official start to the withdrawal of Washington's 2,500 to 3,500 troops and

NATO's 7,000 allied forces is May 1, Miller said the pullout had already begun.

In February last year, the U.S. military began closing its smaller bases. In mid-April, the Biden administration announced that the final phase of the withdrawal would begin May 1 and be completed before Sept. 11.

The pullout of American troops and their NATO coalition colleagues is proceeding even in the absence of a peace deal between the Afghan government and the Taliban, whose harboring of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network prompted the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan after 9/11.

Negotiations between the Taliban and the government have been at a standstill for some time and talks won't resume until next month, raising fears that the withdrawal of foreign forces may lead to a resumption in all-out civil war.

In his testimony, Khalilzad echoed President Joe Biden and other administration officials in saying the U.S. would remain committed to Afghanistan and its development and human rights gains made since 2001 despite the withdrawal.

Khalilzad said he did not believe the withdrawal would precipitate an "imminent" collapse of the Afghan government or reversal of the progress the country has made. □

## U.S. 'Real ID' deadline is now May 2023 because of COVID-19

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Americans will have more time to get the Real ID that they will need to board a flight or enter federal facilities.

The Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday extended the Real ID deadline until May 3, 2023. The deadline had been Oct. 1, 2021, but it was becoming clear that many people wouldn't make it, in part because the COVID-19 outbreak has made

it harder for states to issue new licenses.

Congress passed the Real ID Act in 2005 to establish minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and ID cards following a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission.

The updated cards will be required for airport check-in and to enter federal facilities.

People are getting compliant IDs as they renew, but

it takes time and the process has been slowed by the pandemic, with many state agencies operating at limited capacity.

DHS says only 43% of all driver's licenses and identification cards are compliant.

Older IDs will be suitable to allow people to drive, buy liquor or other age-regulated products, and gamble at casinos. Travelers also can use military IDs or passports to access flights and



In this June 22, 2018, file photo a sample copy of a Washington drivers license is shown at the Washington state Dept. of Licensing office in Lacey, Wash.

Associated Press

federal facilities. □



# Ex-Dallas officer who killed neighbor appeals guilty verdict

By JAKE BLEIBERG  
Associated Press

**DALLAS (AP)** — A panel of three Texas appeals court judges appeared skeptical Tuesday of arguments to overturn the conviction of a former Dallas police officer who was sentenced to prison for fatally shooting her neighbor in his home. An attorney for Amber Guyger clashed with a Dallas County prosecutor over whether the evidence was sufficient to prove that her 2018 shooting of Botham Jean was murder. The hearing examined a Dallas County jury's 2019 decision to sentence Guyger to 10 years in prison for murder. It follows the recent conviction of a former Minneapolis police officer who was found guilty of murdering George Floyd, again focusing national attention on police killings and racial injustice. Guyger, 32, did not appear in court Tuesday and the panel seemed to doubt the arguments presented by her lawyer. The judges will hand down a decision at an unspecified later date. More than two years before Floyd's death set off protests across the country, Guyger's killing of Jean drew national attention because of the strange circumstances and because



This October 2019 file booking photo provided by the Dallas County Sheriff's Department shows former Dallas Police Officer Amber Guyger.

Associated Press

it was one in a string of shootings of Black men by white police officers. The basic facts of the case are not in dispute. Guyger, returning home from a long shift, mistook Jean's apartment for her own, which was on the floor directly below his. Finding the door ajar, she entered and shot him, later testifying that she

through he was a burglar. Jean, a 26-year-old accountant, had been eating a bowl of ice cream before Guyger shot him. She was later fired from the Dallas Police Department. Guyger's appeal hangs on the contention that her mistaking Jean's apartment for her own was reasonable and, therefore, so

too was the shooting. Her lawyer has asked the appeals court to acquit her of murder or to substitute in a conviction for criminally negligent homicide, which carries a lesser sentence. Attorney Michael Mowla insisted Tuesday that Guyger did not have "evil intent." A Dallas County prosecutor countered that her error was not reasonable and that she acknowledged intending to kill Jean. "Murder is a result-oriented offense," prosecutors wrote in a filing. The judges appeared dubious of Mowla's arguments, peppering him with questions and suggesting he was erroneously blending self-defense and mistake-of-fact claims. At one point, Chief Justice Robert Burns told Mowla that a precedent he raised in Guyger's defense actually supported her conviction. Another judge praised the style of prosecutors' written argument, calling it "pleasing on the eyes." Jean's mother, Allison Jean, told the Dallas Morning News that the appeal has delayed her family's healing. "I know everyone has a right of appeal, and I believe she's utilizing that right," Jean said. "But on the other hand, there is one

person who cannot utilize any more rights because she took him away. "So having gotten 10 years, only 10, for killing someone who was in the prime of his life and doing no wrong in the comfort of his home, I believe that she ought to accept, take accountability for it and move on," she said. Guyger could have been sentenced to up to life in prison or as little as two years. Prosecutors had requested a 28-year sentence — Botham Jean would have been 28 if he were still alive during the trial. Under her current sentence, Guyger will become eligible for parole in 2024, according to state prison records. Following the trial, two members of the jury said the diverse panel tried to consider what the victim would have wanted when they settled on a 10-year prison sentence. Jean — who went by "Bo" — sang in a church choir in Dallas and grew up in a devout family on the island nation of St. Lucia. After sentencing, Brandt Jean embraced Guyger in court and told her his older brother would have wanted her to turn her life over to Christ. He said if she asked God for forgiveness, she would get it. □

# Alabama recalls 2011 tornado outbreak that killed hundreds

By JAY REEVES  
Associated Press

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)** — With lowered flags and somber ceremonies, Alabama will pause Tuesday

to mark the 10th anniversary of a horrific tornado outbreak that killed more than 250 people statewide, caused billions in damage and reshaped entire com-

munities. Gov. Kay Ivey issued an order for flags statewide to be lowered to half-staff and proclaimed a "Day of Remembrance" for a "horrible event that has impacted the state of Alabama forever." In Tuscaloosa, where dozens were killed and entire neighborhoods were demolished, three new memorial plaques will be dedicated during ceremonies to honor victims and recall the horrors of April 27, 2011. The University of Alabama will toll its 25-bell carillon, Denny Chimes, 53 times to honor each of the people who died in the city. Tornadoes plowed across the Eastern U.S. over four days, killing more than 320 people in six states

and causing an estimated \$12 billion in damage. Thousands were injured in hardest-hit Alabama, and thousands of homes, businesses, churches and other structures were destroyed. Cleanup costs exceeded \$100 million in Tuscaloosa alone. In tiny Hackleburg, which still lacks sufficient housing and retail businesses because an EF-5 twister wiped out most of the town businesses and many homes, killing 18 people, residents will gather on a road in an intersection in the afternoon to form a human cross, said Mayor Darryl Colburn. "I hope everyone can make it out and take a moment to remember the

friends and family members we lost that tragic day, but also recognize the hope, strength and resilient attitude we've shown as a Town and Community to continue to come back stronger," Colburn said in a message on social media. In the small town of Phil Campbell, where 27 were killed in the same tornado, the high school band planned an evening concert that will conclude with a special piece written to commemorate the anniversary. A community group in the tight-knit Shoal Creek Valley, where a dozen were killed, sold commemorative T-shirts with the words: "Strength is what we gain from the trials we survive." □



This combination of April 29, 2011 and April 16, 2021 photos shows a water tower in Hackleburg, Ala., on April 29, 2011, after a tornado destroyed much of the city and the scene a decade later.

Associated Press



# Russian defense chief scoffs at Western warnings on Ukraine

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russia's defense chief said Tuesday that a troop pullback from areas near Ukraine had nothing to do with Western pressure, adding that Moscow will continue doing what is necessary to protect itself.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu also voiced concern about NATO forces' presence near Russia.

The recent Russian troop buildup near Ukraine worried the West, which strongly urged the Kremlin to withdraw its forces. Shoigu, who ordered the drawdown on Thursday after massive drills, scoffed at the Western calls as inappropriate.

"Some even warned us that our activities on our own territory will have consequences," Shoigu said. "I would like to emphasize that we don't see such warnings as acceptable and will do everything that is necessary to ensure the security of our borders."

He pointed to the deployment of NATO troops near Russia as a cause for Moscow's concern.

"The U.S. and NATO activities to increase combat readiness and build up their presence have contrib-



This handout photo taken from a video released on Friday, April 23, 2021 by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service shows, Russian military's armored vehicles roll into landing vessels after drills in Crimea.

uted to an increase in military threats," Shoigu said, noting that Moscow was closely monitoring the deployment of U.S. troops and weapons in Europe as part of NATO's Defender Europe 2021 drills.

The Russian Black Sea Fleet said Tuesday that its flagship, the Moskva missile cruiser, has left its port of Sevastopol in Crimea for practice missile launches. The navy said that its assets were monitoring the U.S. Coast Guard vessel Hamilton that sailed into the Black Sea Tuesday.

Last week, Russia closed off wide sectors of the Black Sea near Crimea to foreign warships until November, shrugging off Ukrainian and Western complaints.

The Russian troop buildup came amid a rise in ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine, stoking fears of large-scale hostilities. The conflict between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, called Donbas, erupted shortly after Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

More than 14,000 people have been killed in seven years of fighting.

In 2015, France and Germany helped broker a peace deal that was signed in Minsk, the capital of Belarus.

The agreement helped end large-scale battles, but skirmishes have continued and a peace settlement has stalled.

The deal obliged Ukraine to grant broad autonomy to the rebel regions and declare an amnesty for the rebels, and stipulated that Ukraine would regain

full control of its border with Russia in the rebel-held territories only after they elect local leaders and legislatures. Many in Ukraine saw the deal as a betrayal of national interests and opposed it.

The latest round of the so-called "Normandy Format" talks between the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany in December 2019 brought no progress.

Ukrainian officials have continuously pushed for revising the Minsk agreement and inviting the U.S. and other powers to join the peace talks, ideas Russia has rejected.

On Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reaffirmed a call for modifying the Minsk agreement and inviting other countries to help broker peace talks.

"I believe that the Minsk agreement should be flexible," Zelenskyy said. "The 'Normandy format' could be extended to involve other serious, powerful players on a parallel track," Zelenskyy added, without specifying what other nations could be invited to help broker peace talks. Zelenskyy on Tuesday visited Ukrainian troops near Crimea. □

Associated Press

## Cities urge people to stay home on Dutch king's birthday

By MIKE CORDER and PETER DEJONG  
Associated Press

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — Crowds gathered in cities across the Netherlands on Tuesday despite authorities urging people to stick to coronavirus social distancing regulations as the country marked the King's Day national holiday.

This year, the celebrations for King Willem-Alexander's birthday came as lockdown fatigue is rising and a day before an easing of some restrictions even though hospitals are having to postpone regular medical procedures so they can focus on the high level of COVID-19 patients. Even so, clear blue skies and warm weather sent people crowding into city parks and prompted au-

thorities to tell them to go home and urge others to stay away.

Many did not pay attention. In scenes reminiscent of King's Day celebrations before the pandemic, some canal-side streets near Amsterdam's historic Westerkerk church were packed with mostly young revelers singing and drinking Tuesday evening. Police eventually broke up the gathering when some party-goers started to fight each other.

Amsterdam's municipal authorities shut off access to two of the city's main parks by early afternoon and urged people to stay away from the Dutch capital, saying it was too busy. Two other major cities, Utrecht and Rotterdam, tweeted out similar mes-

sages in the afternoon.

In the central city of Arnhem, hundreds packed into a central market square for a demonstration against the government and lockdown measures, prompting city officials to urge people to stay away as the area was full.

The protesters marched through the city chanting slogans including "We are the Netherlands" and "Love, freedom, no dictatorship!" as scores of police monitored the demonstration, which remained peaceful and ended with organizers thanking police and the city's mayor.

King Willem-Alexander marked his 54th birthday in Eindhoven, a southern city that brands itself as a hub for high-tech innova-



A person holds an umbrella reading "Love" during a demonstration against coronavirus related government policies including the curfew and the tight lockdown in Arnhem, eastern Netherlands, Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

Associated Press

tion, with a largely digital version of the annual royal walkabout.

The king, who publicly expressed regret last year for going on a vacation in Greece during the pandemic, paid tribute to care workers unable to

join festivities.

The national holiday is usually an occasion for the Dutch to drape themselves in orange clothes, hats and feather boas, sell old toys and books in street markets and crowd the streets of major cities. □



# Global rights group accuses Israel of apartheid, persecution

By JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — One of the world's best-known human rights groups said Tuesday that Israel is guilty of the international crimes of apartheid and persecution because of discriminatory policies toward Palestinians within its own borders and in the occupied territories. In a sweeping, 213-page report, the New York-based Human Rights Watch joins a growing number of commentators and rights groups who view the conflict not primarily as a land dispute but as a single regime in which Palestinians — who make up roughly half the population of Israel, the West Bank and Gaza — are systematically denied basic rights granted to Jews.

Israel adamantly rejects that characterization, saying its Arab minority enjoys full civil rights. It views Gaza, from which it withdrew soldiers and settlers in 2005, as a hostile entity ruled by the Islamic militant group Hamas, and it considers the West Bank to be disputed territory subject to peace negotiations — which collapsed more than a decade ago.

Human Rights Watch focused its report on the definitions of apartheid and persecution used by the International Criminal Court, which launched a probe into possible Israeli war crimes last month. Israel rejects the court as biased.

Citing public statements by Israeli leaders and official policies, HRW argued that Israel has "demonstrated



In this Dec. 3, 2020 file photo, Israeli border police officers and Palestinians clash during a protest against the expansion of Israeli Jewish settlements near the West Bank town of Salfit.

Associated Press

an intent to maintain the domination of Jewish Israelis over Palestinians" in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, coupled with "systematic oppression" and "inhumane acts."

"When these three elements occur together, they amount to the crime of apartheid," it said.

As to the charge of persecution, the group cited "grave abuses" in the occupied territories, including land confiscation, the systematic denial of building permits, home demolitions and "sweeping, decades-long restrictions on freedom of movement and basic human rights."

The report cites a range of policies it says are aimed at ensuring a Jewish majority in Israel and lands it intends to keep, while largely confining Palestinians to scattered enclaves under overarching Israeli control, with policies that encourage Palestinians to leave.

While such policies are far more severe in the occupied territories, HRW said they can also be found in Israel itself, where Palestinian citizens, who make up roughly 20% of the population, face widespread discrimination when it comes to housing, land access and basic services.

Omar Shakir, the author of the report, said that from the heady early days of the peace process in the 1990s

up until the Obama years, "there was enough there to question whether there was an intent for permanent domination."

But with the demise of the peace process; Israel's plans to annex up to a third of the West Bank, which were put on hold but never abandoned; its massive expansion of settlements and infrastructure linking them to Israel; and the passing of a controversial nation-state law favoring Jews — many say it's no longer possible to view the current situation as temporary.

"Prominent voices have for years warned that Israeli conduct risked turning into apartheid," Shakir said. "This 213-page report finds that the threshold has been crossed."

Israel rejected the report. Human Rights Watch "is known to have a long-standing anti-Israel agenda," the Foreign Ministry said. "The fictional claims that HRW concocted are both preposterous and false."

Israel's supporters reject allegations of apartheid, pointing to the existence of the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, which administers scattered West Bank enclaves under agreements signed in the 1990s.

Israel and the Palestinians have held several rounds of peace talks since then

that included discussions of Palestinian independence but were unable to reach a final agreement.

Eugene Kontorovich, director of international law at the Koheset Policy Forum, a conservative Israeli think tank, said the Palestinians were responsible for their fate. "They have chosen it by rejecting alternatives," he said.

HRW and other rights groups say that despite the existence of the Palestinian Authority, Israel maintains overarching control over nearly every aspect of Palestinian lives in both the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel has exclusive control over 60% of the West Bank, its borders and airspace, and imposes restrictions on movement and residency. The nearly 500,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank have full Israeli citizenship, while the territory's 2.5 million Palestinians live under military rule.

The disparity could be seen in Israel's successful coronavirus vaccination campaign, with shots freely offered to settlers but largely denied to their Palestinian neighbors.

In Gaza, an Israeli blockade imposed after Hamas seized power has largely confined 2 million Palestinians to the coastal strip and decimated the economy. Israel imposes heavy restrictions on the movement of

people and goods in and out of Gaza, as does neighboring Egypt.

The agreements reached in the 1990s were intended to be temporary, pending an historic peace accord that would establish a Palestinian state in most of the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, territories Israel captured in the 1967 war. But that kind of agreement appears farther out of reach than at any point in the last three decades.

Israel is dominated by right-wing parties opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state.

Neither of the rival Palestinian governments in the West Bank or Gaza commands a national movement that could make major concessions, even if Israel were willing to do the same.

Many have concluded that a negotiated two-state solution — still widely seen internationally as the only way of resolving the conflict — will never happen.

Instead of focusing on maps and borders, they call for equal rights for Jews and Palestinians in one binational state, a confederation or some other arrangement.

Kontorovich, voicing a common Israeli criticism, accused HRW of unfairly singling Israel out and trying to delegitimize it.

"Why say it's apartheid? Why not just say Israel has some discriminatory policies that we don't like?" he said.

"Because for discriminatory policies, what do you do? You change the policies. ... What do you do with an apartheid regime? You have to replace it."

Human Rights Watch does not adopt a position on what a final agreement should look like, but says any attempt to resolve the conflict must recognize the reality on the ground.

"The underlying issue is structural repression and discrimination," Shakir said. "You need to address rights abuse and then create a context in which there can be a political solution that all parties reach." □

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## U.S. to help Guatemala train its border protection force

By SONIA PÉREZ D. and  
GISELA SALOMON  
Associated Press

**GUATEMALA CITY (AP)** —

The United States agreed Monday to train members of a Guatemalan task force responsible for protecting the country's borders and putting a brake on uncontrolled migration.

The U.S. offer came during a video call between U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei. The U.S. will send 16 employees of the Department of Homeland Security to aid in the effort. The United States will also help Guatemala to build shelters for returned migrants and help the migrants transition back to life in their home communities.

The agreement comes amid a spike in the number of migrant children arriving at the U.S. border, many of them Guatemalan.

"On border security, what was discussed was the establishment of a joint task force for border protection," said Pedro Brolo, Guatemala's foreign minister. "The U.S. government offered training."

The effort will be spearheaded on the Guatemalan side by the Division of Border Ports and Airports. Harris told Giammattei the U.S. is planning to increase



In this Jan. 16, 2020 file photo, Honduran migrants hoping to reach the U.S. border are stopped by Guatemalan police near Agua Caliente, Guatemala, on the border with Honduras.

Associated Press

relief to the Northern Triangle region — Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — and "strengthen our cooperation" to better manage the steep increase in migration at the U.S. southern border.

The conversation marked a ramping up of Harris' diplomatic efforts to address the root causes of migration from the region, a role she was given by President Joe Biden last month.

In her opening remarks, Harris spoke about what she described as the "acute causes" of the spike in migration — hurricanes that battered the region last fall, a persistent drought and the coronavirus pandemic — as well as "root causes" like the lack of economic opportunity in

the region, extreme weather conditions and government corruption.

"We want to work with you to address both the acute causes as well as the root causes, in a way that will bring hope to the people of Guatemala that there will be an opportunity for them if they stay at home," Harris said.

She promised an increase in aid to countries in the region and efforts to better cooperate to "manage migration in an effective, secure and humane manner."

Her comments come the same day the Biden administration announced sanctions against one current and one former Guatemalan government official for corruption.

"These sanctions support efforts by the people of Guatemala to end the scourge of corruption, as part of the US government's commitment to support improvements in governance in Guatemala," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

Neither Harris nor Giammattei referred to the sanctions in their opening statements.

Giammattei told Harris that his country's government would like to be a "partner" to the U.S. to address "not only poverty, but so many evils that affect us." □

## Somalia's president to address nation as support crumbles

By HASSAN BARISE  
Associated Press

**MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)** — Somalia's president will address the nation on Tuesday evening after two key regional states objected to his extended stay in office and the prime minister asked the country to prepare for elections whose delay had sparked gunfire between rival groups of soldiers in the Mogadishu streets. President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed had not commented publicly since hundreds of soldiers opposed to his two-year extension took up positions in the capital on Sunday. Alarmed by the extraordinary sight, the United Nations, African Union, United States and others in the international community on Tuesday warned against the "emerging fragmentation" of the Somali National Army along clan lines. Some residents fled, worried that Somalia was against collapsing into conflict after years of trying to rebuild. Soon afterward, the regional states of Hirshabelle and Galmudug turned against the president's extension in office and called for a return to talks on the national election that had been meant to take place in early February. Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble backed that joint statement and called on security forces to return to their barracks. He also urged opposition leaders to stop any actions that could harm Somalia's stability. The president has faced growing opposition in Somalia and abroad after the lower house of parliament approved the extension of his mandate and he signed it into law it, to the fury of Senate leaders. □



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# Employees of the month at Costa Linda

**EAGLE BEACH** — Costa Linda recognizes the hard work of their employees on a monthly basis through their "Employee of the Month" award.

For the month of January they recognized Jurgen Marchena from the Housekeeping Department. Jurgen was selected due to his commitment to excellent service and willingness to go the extra mile in order to provide superb service to all our members and guests.

For the month of February Yolanda Vrolijk from the Security Department received the great recognition. Yolanda is very attentive and ensure that all safety and security protocols are being followed at the resort.



Costa Linda would like to congratulate Jurgen and Yolanda and thank them for their excellent work. □

**Costa Linda Beach Resort**

Discover the perfect island hideaway, Costa Linda Beach Resort, located on Eagle Beach, the finest beach on Aruba. You'll find a wealth of information on resort activities and amenities on their website [www.costalinda-aruba.com](http://www.costalinda-aruba.com), plus the latest news on additional services designed to help you get the most out of your stay.



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# Governor of Aruba will award 33 Arubans with royal honors

**ORANJESTAD** — His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt, awarded a Royal honor to 33 Arubans in the Order of the Dutch Lion and in the Order of Orange-Nassau on the occasion of the celebration of His Majesty King Willem Alexander.

Traditionally this festive moment, also called the General Opportunity, is connected with the birthday of His Majesty the King, being the Grand Master of the Knighthoods. An award is presented to people who have made themselves very deserving of society.

This year 33 Aruban citizens are distinguished. Just like last year, the Governor of Aruba, His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt, called the honorees ahead of time to inform them that they qualify for a Royal award and to congratulate them accordingly. The Aruban " Ribbon Rain " will take place this year on Friday April 30th.

- the following persons will be honored as 'Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau, when promoted':

  - Mrs E.S. van der Wal-Kanbier
  - Mr R.W. van der Wal
- The following persons will be honored as 'Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau':

  - Mrs A.E. Croes-Laclé
  - Mrs A.T. Muller
  - Mrs I.J. Prophet
  - Mrs A.E. Schoop-Romberg
  - Mr L.G. Tromp
- Member of the Order of Orange-Nassau' honorees are:

  - Mr R.A. Acosta
  - Mr R.A. Angela
  - Mr E. H. Barry
  - Mrs M.L. Benjamin
- Mr A.J. Croes
  - Mrs L.H. Croes-Werleman
  - Mr R.H. de Cuba
  - Mr L.T. de Cuba
  - Mrs L.I. de Cuba-Wever
  - Mr R.R.J. Fingal
  - Mr E.R. Gomez
  - Mr G.H. Griffith
  - Mr M.T.R. Hassell
  - Mrs L.E. Hernandez
  - Mrs C.J. Kelly-Valdéz
  - Mr K.C. Lucas
  - Mr A. Makowiec
  - Mr A.S. Marchena
  - Mrs L.H. Martinez
  - Mrs M.A.S. Piternella
  - Mr G.V. Sawilani
  - Mr M. Thiel
  - Mrs A.A.A. Trimon-Geerman
  - Mr C.N. Trump
  - Mrs G.J. Tromp
  - Mrs R.T. Willems-Krozendijk





## MONDAY MADNESS AND BINGO ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

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Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



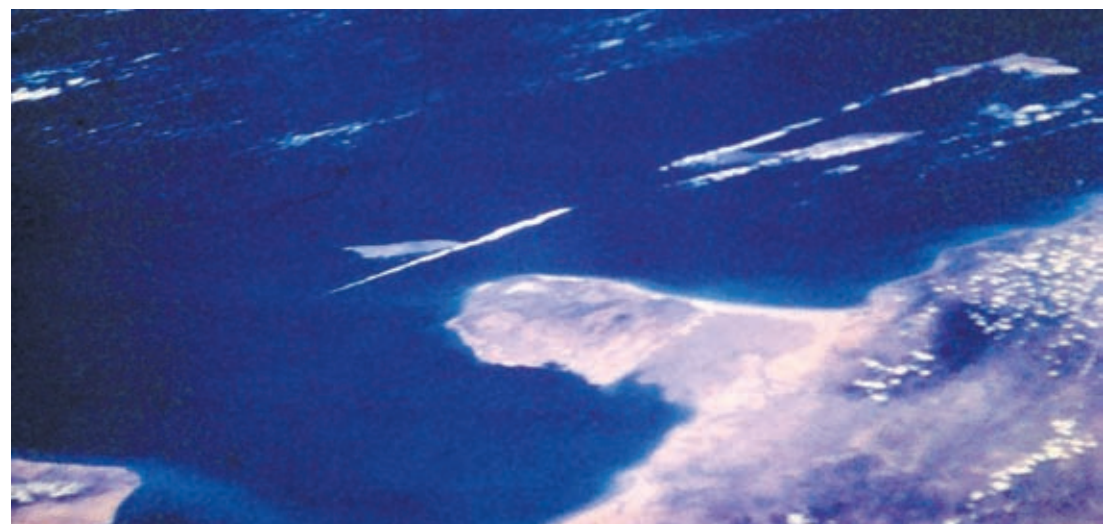
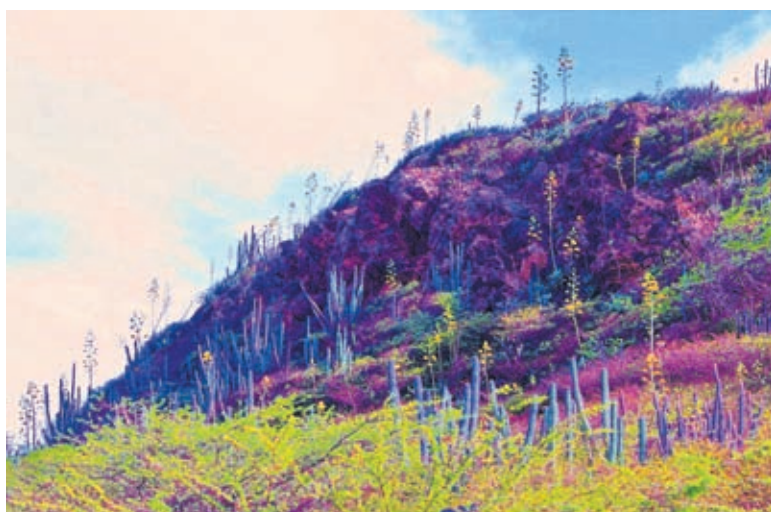
## Ancient Tourists

## Episode CII - 102

It is generally accepted that in the beginning of the Paleolithic era, occupation of the American continent started with archaic hunting and scavenging who followed big mammals like the mammoths in to North America. One possible route of various that these nomads could have followed to reach the Caribbean was from the Floridian pan handle jumping island to island till reaching the southern continent or jumping from the Yucatan peninsula to Cuba and navigating along the Central American Caribbean coast reaching the island. So the most probable maritime route of accessing Aruba must have been from out of the isthmus of Paraguaná reaching out of the South American continent. This would have been the shortest and easiest way to reach our happy island.

There is no doubt that the distance in the past must have been closer to what today is Venezuela, sea levels where 60 to 90 meters lower, the further you get in time. The land that today forms an isthmus to the outer side, a land stretch from the coast till the foot hills of the Sta. Anna in South America, so it is a fact that the island is attached to the South American land mass, positioned on or part of the continental shelf. Many animals could have cross over just as the archaic forefathers have done during thousands of years of acculturation with in an archaic context of existence during thousands of years. They could have reached this part of the world maybe just by walking.

We thinking about twelve thousand years ago we must



imagine that the temperature of our planet earth was six to twelve degrees cooler than it is today in the southwestern Caribbean area, while the Aruba's landscape was also covered with a greater amount of flora then in present time. So, the overall conditions in which these ancient marauders found this land upon their arrival was in every aspect much more favorable than today. This contributed to an easy and a sustainable way of life in a harsh and wild environment. The island's landscape and Topography in many areas offered perfect layouts that formed zones where people were able to walk for hours under a green canopy of a semi rain forest, where trees blocked the incoming sun light during the whole year. Forest consisting of mixed vegetation made out of various types of trees, ferns, orchids, vines and bromeliads etc. Many of these plants have long disappeared and are to be considered extinct and lost to science forever. Who knows what medicinal properties, food source, color pigment or even an effective insect or vermin repellent these plants could have carried just to keep it simple. Even though

it is a small Island, there were also places that were open grasslands or savannas covered with cactus and xerophilous, while other zones where made out of wet lands and maybe natural salt pans. However there were no mango trees or coconut palms, tamarind juice or watermelons and everything they knew about electricity was that it was the father of fire, wind and water and that the earth was their mother and mother of all things. He, who came from beyond the clouds and lit up the night sky with its flash and thundering voice.□

To get to know a little more regarding Aruba's and its cultural origins we highly recommend you to book your participation in our cultural encounter session.

A mind opening revelation and entertaining island experience.

Mail us at [etnianativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianativa03@gmail.com), our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.



## Alex Nieuwmeyer, General Manager at Divi Resorts Aruba: “1200 employees, 33 cultures, we are the Divi family”

**EAGLE BEACH —** Aruba Today had an interesting talk with General Manager Alex Nieuwmeyer, you can call him ‘The Divi man’. Dutch-born Nieuwmeyer has earned his spurs in the hospitality world with years of experience running hotels in New York, Boston and Las Vegas in the U.S. 26 years ago he came to Aruba to lift Divi Resorts Aruba and promised himself before he arrived, he would not stay on this tiny island coming from big city life with a career running. “But I never left, I love Aruba and the independency to do it all here.”

### Nieuwmeyer’s career

“I have been with the brand 26 years now. I am Dutch and in 1975 I moved to the US working in New York as a GM for two hotels at Park Avenue. I also worked for the Sheraton cooperation long time in Boston, followed by Bally’s in Las Vegas, after that went back to Sheraton in Montreal and functioned as well as a corporate food and beverage director for the west coast of the U.S., I was based in L.A. at that time. Sheraton was sold to Starwood at some point and they closed all the regional offices. A friend of mine offered me a job in New York as GM for Doral Hotels, who had a management contract with Divi Aruba. Later Doral fell a part due to bad management of the original owner’s son and later grandson. They needed someone to go down there and I was the only one speaking Dutch\_ so an obvious choice. I

told myself: I will only go for one year, I am not going to stay on an island while making career in New York. That was 26 years ago from now.....”

He stayed because of the opportunity to be independent, to run a property with your own creativity and space. “We do so much ourselves here and I love that. For example at Divi Tamarijn we did the new room and restaurant designs up to the purchase of the furniture.” Nieuwmeyer proves to be a man with a hands-on mentality.

### How did you experience the crisis?

“In February we heard about the Covid-19 situation in Bergamo, Italy and we were thinking: Oh my, we have 1.2 million on the books for honeymooners in July and August. Beginning of March we were discussing how to compensate this, and March 15th, 2020 Aruba went into a lockdown. We were caught completely off guard by the fast course of events. And still we thought that it would be over in September/October that year. We were very optimistic.” In the meantime, Nieuwmeyer and his team took the opportunity to renovate the Divi Tamarijn rooms, turning them into more spacious ones and with a fresh, refurbished look. “We did not lay anybody off, but we do apply salary subsidy. The occupancy is still not good and with the new testing requirement of the U.S. we were hit hard again.”



All of the four Divi properties have in-house testing center and they take bookings in advance. You will be able to either book your appointment from home before departure or upon arrival at check in. “We will never be sold out. All information is to be found through the website [www.diviaruba.com](http://www.diviaruba.com).”

### Community commitment, what is it to Divi?

“Throughout the years we have always worked with the community, supporting local charity events and also our local artists. You can find art objects in all our properties. We then got involved with Divi Impact, a concept where partly the Divi employees contribute and we suggest a \$1 per night contribution from our guests but totally voluntarily. The YMCA Oranjestad was kind of built by Divi and after that we supported the Kids Council, an initiative by Princess Laurentien from the Dutch royal family which led us to an elementary school, Pius X-college, where we noticed the poor financial state of our education. Divi undertook action and realized the school’s full air-conditioning, a complete painting and we provided all children with iPads to execute their educational program. We will follow up with new TVs soon.”

The Kids Council, where children structurally help institutions and organizations think about strategic and social issues, dived into a Divi dilemma: internal discrimination between employees. “It was pretty hefty. The children did very well, they interviewed the employees and with their project they had to go to the Netherlands to compete with the other parts of the Dutch Kingdom. Divi actually implemented the student’s ideas like for example the cultural fair. As a result you see an increased team spirit.”

### We are the Divi family, what does it mean?

“With 1200 employees and 33 cultures within the Divi we have quite an operation running. With the earlier mentioned cultural fair, we asked our employees to bring the typical food of their country to share. It was fantastic with employees dancing and eating together. We are Divi, team spirit is one of our successes. Yes, we work well with our employees and the union.”

### Will Aruba’s tourism recover soon?

“Tourism is very resilient, when I heard about New York on September 11th, 2001, I thought: This is it, it is over, and we are done with Aruba’s tourism. But we were empty for a week and a week after the air traffic came to rescue the people that could not return earlier. The week after that, we were back to 90 % occupancy again. Of course we dropped a bit in numbers in January, February, March because September is the booking period for those months, but recovery went fast.

Right now we are very down but what we see in March and April are bookings even with the new CDC measure. We have 50 % occupancy in the books for March and April which is promising. Depending on the vaccinations, how fast they can act, and the ever-changing mutations, we are hopeful to return to 60/70 % occupancy in summer and by fall almost return to normal strength. Aruba is popular, it is safe and it has its protocols in place. Airlifts come with demand, I do not worry that much. However, for Aruba it is very important to carry out the message that it is easy to come here and that we take care of the testing.”

### Aruba, what comes to your mind?

“A safe and friendly paradise, offering a high-quality vacation product with constant great weather.” □

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our Managing Director:

### Mr. Alexander Maarten Nieuwmeyer - Alex

A visionary leader, Alex cared deeply for his colleagues and Aruba’s community and will be remembered for his dedication to Divi Resorts as a company, brand and most notably – a family.

His 27-year tenure at Divi & Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive has been the driving force behind the ongoing success of the properties. Alex will be greatly missed by all those who knew him and leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of personal relationships, community service and stewardship.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Divi & Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive & Divi Resorts Aruba  
Staff and Management Team



*In Loving Memory of*

*Alexander Nieuwmeyer*  
*1951-2021*

A true leader in the hotel world, who made a tremendous impact throughout his 27 years with Divi Resorts.  
Mr. Nieuwmeyer will be greatly missed.

Funeral information will be announced soon



# U.S. farmers finally see better outlook after 2 odd years

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE

Associated Press

**MADRID, Iowa (AP)** — In 43 years of farming, Morey Hill had seen crop-destroying weather, rock-bottom prices, trade fights and surges in government aid, but not until last year had he endured it all in one season. Now, as Hill and other farmers begin planting the nation's dominant crops of corn and soybeans, they're dealing with another shift — the strongest prices in years and a chance to put much of the recent stomach-churning uncertainty behind them. The return to something more akin to normal will be a welcome change from the last two seasons that likely will be remembered as among the most unusual in U.S. agricultural history.

"It will be nice to get out there and feel good about what you're doing," said Hill, who farms 400 acres (162 hectares) near the small Iowa community of Madrid. "I don't have a black cloud hanging over me."

It's hard to overstate how bizarre the past two seasons have been for farmers, who for the previous six years had repeatedly produced near-record harvests but saw little profit because commodity prices were so low. The situation worsened after then-



Morey Hill speaks about his farming operation, Friday, April 16, 2021, near Madrid, Iowa.

Associated Press

President Donald Trump launched a trade war with China that reduced demand and lowered prices, but Trump then blunted the impact with \$16 billion in agricultural aid.

Last spring, farmers' hopes for a more normal season were initially wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic, which disrupted domestic markets, slowed shipping to other countries and devastated demand for corn-based ethanol as people stopped driving. Hundreds of Midwest farmers last August also were hit by a devastating wind storm, called a derecho, that flattened

850,000 acres (343,983 hectares) of crops, including 90% of Hill's corn and soybean crop.

The federal government then offset those hits with \$50 billion in various kinds of aid to farmers plus crop insurance payments.

That massive infusion of aid continued even as U.S. agricultural exports recovered midway through the year, eventually soaring to \$146 billion, the second highest export total ever, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The main reason was big increases in exports of soybeans, corn and pork to China.

"So 2020 ended up being the best of both worlds," said Scott Irwin, a University of Illinois agricultural economist. "Huge government payment and unexpectedly high grain prices."

The USDA has forecast that those agricultural exports will remain strong later this year, and coupled with greater demand for livestock feed and ethanol, corn prices have roughly doubled from just over \$3 a bushel in spring 2020 to about \$6 a bushel now, the highest price in eight years. Thanks to that good news and continued low interest rates, the value of farmland

continued a long-term increase, with average prices in Iowa up 7.8% from September to March, according to the Realtors Land Institute's Iowa chapter.

"All this great news, it makes me nervous," said Wayne Humphreys, a farmer from Columbus Junction, who laughed as he contrasted the last two years with current trends.

Despite the positive signs, income actually could drop this year for some farmers because the federal government doesn't plan to continue the billions of dollars in special payments that offset tariffs and coronavirus problems, though generous programs like subsidized crop insurance will continue.

That means that even with strong prices, USDA Chief Economist Seth Meyer predicted in February that net farm income would decline about 8% because of a roughly \$20 billion drop in direct farm payments.

Humphreys, a board member of the export market-focused U.S. Grain Council, said he also worries that trade disputes started with China, Canada, Mexico and other nations during the Trump administration could hurt exports in the future because of damage to long-term relationships that agriculture groups built over decades. □

## More than 400 businesses back LGBTQ rights act

By DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Business Writer

More than 400 companies — including Tesla, Pfizer, Delta Air Lines and Amazon — have signed on to support civil rights legislation for LGBTQ people that is moving through Congress, advocates said Tuesday. The Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-based LGBTQ advocacy group, said its Business Coalition for the Equality Act has grown to 416 members, including dozens of Fortune 500 companies. Big names like Apple, PepsiCo, General Motors, CVS, Facebook, Marriott, Capital One, Starbucks and Home Depot pepper the list.

"It's time that civil rights protections be extended to LGBT+ individuals nationwide on a clear, consistent and comprehensive basis," said Carla Grant Pickens, IBM's chief diversity and inclusion officer, in a statement distributed by the Human Rights Campaign. The Equality Act would amend existing civil rights law to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identification as protected characteristics. Those protections would extend to employment, housing, loan applications, education and other areas.

The bill passed the U.S. House 224-206 in February, with all Democrats but just

three Republicans supporting it. Its fate in the closely divided Senate is uncertain. The House also passed the bill in the last Congress, but it didn't advance to the Senate. Among the bill's opponents is the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which has said it could force church halls and facilities to host functions that violate their beliefs.

Corporate endorsements of the bill have more than doubled since the House first passed it in 2019, the Human Rights Campaign said.

"We are seeing growing support from business leaders because they understand that the Equality Act



In this June 24, 2014 file photo, a giant Pride flag flies atop the Starbucks headquarters in celebration of Gay Pride Week in Seattle.

Associated Press

is good for their employees, good for their businesses and good for our country,"

the Human Rights Campaign President Alphonso David said in a statement. □



# Scientist: Extent of DDT dumping in Pacific is 'staggering'

By JULIE WATSON  
Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Marine scientists say they have found what they believe to be more than 25,000 barrels that possibly contain DDT dumped off the Southern California coast near Catalina Island, where a massive underwater toxic waste site dating back to World War II has long been suspected.

The 27,345 "barrel-like" objects were captured in high-resolution images as part of a study by researchers at the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

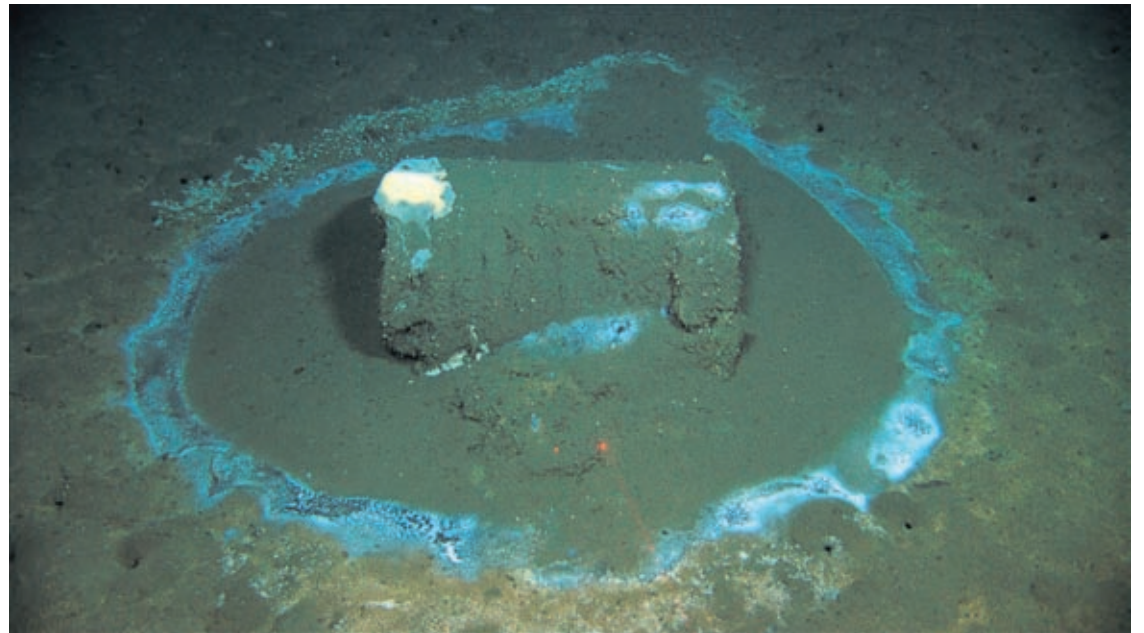
They mapped more than 56 square miles (145 square kilometers) of seafloor between Santa Catalina Is-

land and the Los Angeles coast in a region previously found to contain high levels of the toxic chemical in sediments and in the ecosystem.

Historical shipping logs show that industrial companies in Southern California used the basin as a dumping ground until 1972, when the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, also known as the Ocean Dumping Act, was enacted.

Disposing of industrial, military, nuclear and other hazardous waste was a pervasive global practice in the 20th century, according to researchers.

Resting deep in the ocean, the exact location and extent of the dumping was not known until now.



In this 2011 image provided by the University of California Santa Barbara, a barrel sits on the seafloor near the coast of Catalina Island, Calif.

Associated Press

## More patrols, fewer boaters for SpaceX splashdown Saturday



From left, NASA's Shannon Walker, Victor Glover and Michael Hopkins, and Japan's Soichi Noguchi hold a news conference aboard the International Space Station on Monday, April 26, 2021.

Associated Press

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)** — The astronauts flying SpaceX back to Earth this weekend urged boaters to stay safe by staying away from their capsule's splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico.

NASA and SpaceX are promising more Coast Guard patrols and fewer pleasure boaters for Saturday morning's planned splashdown off the Florida coast — the company's second return of a crew. The trip home for the four astronauts was delayed from Wednesday because of high winds forecast for the area.

Last August, pleasure boaters swarmed the Dragon capsule carrying two astronauts. NASA astronaut Mike Hopkins said everyone is putting "a lot of emphasis" on keeping the area clear this time.

"I don't think any of us are too worried in terms of landing on a boat," he said during a news conference Monday from the International Space Station.

Leaking fuel from the capsule's thrusters could endanger people outside the capsule. A crowd could also hamper SpaceX's recovery effort.

Hopkins is winding up a six-month mission, along with U.S. crewmates Victor Glover and Shannon Walker, and Japan's Soichi Noguchi. Their replacements arrived Saturday on their own SpaceX capsule. □

The territory covered was "staggering," said Eric Terrill, chief scientist of the expedition and director of the Marine Physical Laboratory at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Underwater drones using sonar technology captured the images of barrels resting 3,000 feet (900 meters) below the surface all along the steep seafloor that was surveyed.

"It really was a surprise to everybody who's worked with the data and who sailed at sea," Terrill told reporters Monday.

The survey provides "a wide-area map" of where the barrels are resting, though it will be up to others to confirm through sediment sampling that the containers hold DDT, Terrill said. It's estimated between 350 and 700 tons of DDT were dumped in the area, 12 miles (20 kilometers) from Los Angeles, and 8 miles (12 kilometers) from Catalina Island.

The long-term impact on marine life and humans is still unknown, said Scripps chemical oceanographer and professor of geosciences Lihini Aluwihare, who in 2015 co-authored a study that found high amounts of DDT and other man-made chemicals in the blubber of bottlenose dolphins that died of natural causes.

"These results also raise questions about the continued exposure and potential impacts on marine mammal health, espe-

cially in light of how DDT has been shown to have multi-generational impacts in humans," said Aluwihare, who was not part of the survey expedition.

Diana Aga, a chemistry professor at University at Buffalo who is not affiliated with the study, said the findings were shocking if the barrels are proven to contain the toxic chemical. "That's a lot of DDT at the bottom of the ocean," she said.

If the barrels haven't leaked, they could be moved to a place where disposal is safer, Aga said. If they leaked, scientists could take samples from the water, sediment and other marine life to gauge the damage.

Terrill briefed lawmakers on the findings. California Democratic Sen. Diane Feinstein is pushing for companies to be held accountable and said the findings could represent only a fraction of the number of barrels underwater.

"Simply put, this is one of the biggest environmental threats on the West Coast," she said.

"It's also one of the most challenging because these barrels are 3,000 feet below the ocean's surface and there aren't many records of who did the dumping, where exactly it occurred or how many barrels were dumped."

Scientists conducted the survey from March 10-24 following a Los Angeles

Times report last year about evidence that DDT was dumped into the ocean.

"Unfortunately, the basin offshore Los Angeles had been a dumping ground for industrial waste for several decades, beginning in the 1930s. We found an extensive debris field in the wide area survey," Terrill said.

Scientists started the search where University of California Santa Barbara professor David Valentine had discovered concentrated accumulations of DDT in the sediments and spotted 60 barrels about a decade ago.

High levels of DDT have been detected in the area's marine mammals, and the chemical has been linked to cancer in sea lions.

The Los Angeles Times reviewed shipping logs from a disposal company supporting Montrose Chemical Corp. of California, a DDT-producing company. The logs showed 2,000 barrels of DDT-laced sludge were dumped in the deep ocean each month from 1947 to 1961 off Catalina, and other companies also dumped there until 1972.

Scripps researchers say they hope their survey will support clean-up efforts.

The expedition on the Sally Ride research vessel included a team of 31 scientists, engineers, and crew conducting 24-hour operations and two autonomous underwater vehicles. □



## U.S. lifts barriers to prescribing addiction treatment drug

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**  
AP Medical Writer

The Biden administration is easing decades-old requirements that made it difficult for doctors to treat opioid addiction using medication. New guidelines announced Tuesday mean doctors and other health workers will no longer need extra hours of training to prescribe buprenorphine, a gold standard medicine that helps with cravings.

And they no longer have to refer patients to counseling services. Under the loosened guidelines, prescribers will be able to treat up to 30 patients at a time with the drug. It comes in a pill or film that dissolves under the tongue. It costs about \$100 a month. A common version of buprenorphine is Suboxone.

Because of how opioids act on the brain, people dependent on them get

sick if they stop using. Withdrawal can feel like a bad flu with cramping, sweating, anxiety and sleeplessness. Cravings for the drug can be so intense that relapse is common. Buprenorphine helps by moving a patient from powerful painkillers or an illicit opioid like heroin to a regular dose of a legal opioid-based medication. The Trump administration tried to make a similar change in its final days but it would have applied only to doctors. □

### Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8	5				4	9	
7			8		3			5
3			4		1			7
9			3		2			6
	5	6	1			7	3	2
			5					9
			9					8
2			7		4			1
	7	9				3	6	

Difficulty Level ★★

4/28

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Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);  
Week 9/1218 (15k);  
Week 10/1207 (15k);  
Week 11/1419 (13k);  
Week 13/1509 (13k);  
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Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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# Chocolate to McNuggets: Book details history of kid food

**By LEANNE ITALIE**  
**AP Entertainment Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Legend: Genghis Khan came up with an early concept for hamburgers that involved tenderizing meat scraps under the saddles of horses as his Golden Horde ransacked its way to China back in the 13th century. Fact: Nobody knows for sure who first came up with putting beef patties between bread. Such bite-size anecdotes are among the truths and folklore included in "There's No Ham in Hamburgers," a new book that serves up the history, science and geography behind a myriad of foods beloved by kids. Burgers and fries are represented, along with chocolate, peanut butter, chicken, ice cream and all that sugary cereal so many parents love to hate.

A history buff and promoter of reading for pleasure in schools, author Kim Zachman in Roswell, Georgia, wrote the playful, informative food dive for youngsters ages 8 to 12. "I wanted to write history for kids and I wanted it to be really fun," she told The Associated Press. "I was trying to think of ideas and I was out walking my dog one day, and I was like, why is there no ham in hamburgers? I'd always kind of wondered that. That's when I found so many great origin stories." Some, she said, are untrue or unprovable. She also collected facts on nutrition



This photo shows Kim Zachman posing with her book and plates of food on Oct. 5, 2020, in Roswell, Ga.

and health, and included simple recipes and a single science experiment on how to extract iron from fortified cold cereal. The latter involves pummeling cereal into dust and then hovering a powerful magnet above the mess. Zachman, mom to two daughters in college, doesn't shy away from murky origins or multiple claims to innovations in her book, published by Running Press Kids. Nobody knows, for instance, the meaning behind the name Oreo, but one thing's for sure: The Nabisco treats were a copy cat of the Hydrox sandwich cookie, which hit the mar-

ket four years prior, in 1908. "It was surprising to me how little we actually know about the origins of some of these foods," she said. "We really don't know for sure who made the first hamburger. Several people claim to have done it." In the 1500s, German sailors on trade ships crossing the Baltic Sea discovered raw meat patties in Russia. Back home, they tweaked the idea, frying the beef patties with sauteed onions. Sailors from other countries came ashore in Hamburg, the country's most important port city at the time, and discovered "Hamburg steak." In the 1800s, mil-

lions of Germans made their way to America and brought the Hamburg steak idea along for the ride. Among those claiming to have invented the modern burger: "Hamburger Charlie" Nagreen, who in 1885, at age 15, was selling meatballs at the Outagamie County Fair in Seymour, Wisconsin. To make them easier to carry, he smashed them between two slices of bread and called it a "hamburger." It was a hit. "I thought it was interesting for kids to know that some things don't just happen. That's how the human species evolves. It's not just one person who thinks of

fire. It happens all over the place," Zachman said. A big takeaway for Zachman was exactly how long and laborious a process it is to produce vanilla, the second most expensive spice behind saffron. The journey often starts on vanilla bean plantations in Madagascar, the world's leading producer, and might end five years later in a pint of ice cream in America. It takes four years for a young vanilla plant to produce a flower, and the flower lasts for just one day. Workers must pollinate and harvest by hand to produce the long pods, and pods are cured through an intricate process that takes six months. "That blew my mind," Zachman said. The persnickety cacao tree was another mind blower. The tropical trees, from which chocolate hails, can't handle direct sunlight, need rain year round, and take three to four years to produce blossoms that can only be pollinated by tiny flies called midges. Out of 1,000 flowers, just three or four will be pollinated and grow into seed pods, which take about six months to ripen. Chocolate is possible after seeds are fermented in a warm dark place, dried in the sun and roasted.

Zachman doesn't ignore some of the big personalities behind popular kid foods, such as the brawling Kellogg brothers of Battle Creek, Michigan. Younger sibling Will Keith added sugar to their wheat (later corn) flakes to make them last longer and taste better. Older brother John Harvey, a doctor, health nut and devout Seventh-Day Adventist, was furious, and the two ended their 25-year partnership bitterly in 1906, exchanging lawsuits for years after that. □

1	8	5	6	2	7	4	9	3
7	6	4	8	9	3	1	2	5
3	9	2	4	5	1	6	8	7
9	1	7	3	8	2	5	4	6
8	5	6	1	4	9	7	3	2
4	2	3	5	7	6	8	1	9
6	4	1	9	3	5	2	7	8
2	3	8	7	6	4	9	5	1
5	7	9	2	1	8	3	6	4

## Apple Music launches more than 100 city-focused music charts



In this Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017, file photo, buildings are reflected behind the logo at an Apple Store in downtown Chicago. Associated Press

**By MESFIN FEKADU**  
**AP Music Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Apple Music is coming to a city near you — the streaming service has launched daily music charts focused on particular cities around the world, including New York City, Tokyo and Lagos. The streaming service unveiled City Charts on Monday for more than 100 cities, and the Top 25 songs on each local chart are based on the number of plays in the particular city. More than 25 of the new

City Charts are based in North America, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Miami, San Francisco, Honolulu, Toronto, Vancouver and San Juan, Puerto Rico. In Europe, City Charts will be available in Paris, Berlin, Dublin, Rome, Madrid, London and more cities. City Charts will also launch in Africa (Nairobi, Johannesburg); Asia (Seoul, Bangkok, Manila); Latin America (Rio de Janeiro, Bogotá); and the Middle East (Tel Aviv, Istanbul, Dubai). □



# Shades of gray rare among Kentucky Derby favorites, winners

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Sports Writer

Chris Goodlett has walked around Churchill Downs many times since joining the Kentucky Derby Museum and heard admiring fans say to each other, "Oh, look at that beautiful gray horse."

Not many of those remarks have come while looking at the winner's circle after the Derby.

Essential Quality is expected to be the first gray horse to go off as the Kentucky Derby favorite in 25 years. A gray horse hasn't won the Derby since Giacomo in 2005, and only eight grays have won it since 1930.

According to historians and experts, there are just fewer gray horses compared to more traditional chestnut, bay, brown and black horses, and therefore fewer chances to win the sport's biggest race.

"That genetic determinant of the gray color is just not at a high enough frequency in the thoroughbred population," said Dr. James MacLeod, professor of veterinary science at the University of Kentucky's Gluck Equine Research Center. "There's no functional connection between the single-gene determinant of gray coat color and the genes associated with elite athletic performance in



Jockey Luis Saez rides Essential Quality to win the Breeders' Cup Juvenile horse race at Keeneland Race Course in Lexington, Ky., in this Friday, Nov. 6, 2020, file photo.

Associated Press

thoroughbred racehorses." Gray does belong in the spectrum of colors for elite racehorses over the past century, especially in recent decades. Silver Charm won the first two legs of the Triple Crown in 1997 before falling short in the Belmont, and Winning Colors in 1988 remains the most recent filly to win the Derby.

Success has just been rare, with 110 grays running in the Derby over the past 90 years and 7.3% winning it. Goodlett can't say how that compares to horses of other colors, which have

won the other 82 most recent incarnations of the race.

"There's not a lot of gray stallions and there's not a lot of gray mares," National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame communications director Brien Bouyea said. "A lot of the traditional breeding, I don't think anybody has anything against gray horses when it comes to breeding. There just haven't been a lot of stallions out there that have carried that genetic along."

Essential Quality could be

on the leading edge of the next generation of speedy grays thanks to his sire, Tapit, who has fathered some strong horses so far and expected to produce more. Fellow Derby runner Soup and Sandwich also has Tapit lineage on his mother's side.

"Tapit is one of the most successful sires in the world right now and has been for a while and is getting some extremely talented mares sent to him, so likely those foals are going to race at higher levels," MacLeod said. "There's probably

more grays now racing at the top tier on average than a normal year, so we might see an increase in grays at the top tier over the next couple of decades."

Grays could be even more prominent on the Triple Crown circuit in the coming years had it not been for the death of North American all-time money-earner Arrogate last June at age 7. A 2-year-old filly sired by Arrogate recently sold for \$1 million, and Bouyea said some in the industry are eager to buy more of the champion horse's babies based on pedigree.

"All that needs to happen is you have to have a couple of really, really fast grays and then they get (bred) and then at least half of their foals are gray," Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine professor of pathology and genetics Dr. D. Phillip Spontenberg said. "There's few of them. And it just takes a really, really stellar one to change that, and a stellar one hasn't come around." Essential Quality could be stellar, and his next task is trying to win the Derby as the favorite. Trainer Brad Cox isn't worried what Essential Quality's coat looks like, other than he's draped in red roses Saturday night. □

## NHL could adjust playoffs for travel restrictions in Canada

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Hockey Writer

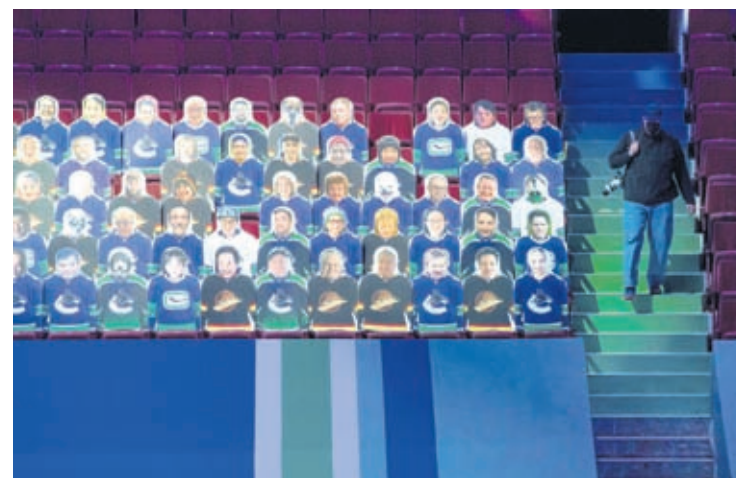
The NHL is preparing contingency plans if virus restrictions in Canada prevent travel between provinces or back and forth to the U.S. during the playoffs.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman on Tuesday called the situation "wildly unpredictable." The NHL put off the thorny issue of cross-border travel before the season began by having all seven Canadian teams play in the same division for the entire regular season and first two rounds of the playoffs. Nothing has been decided about how to handle a potential prob-

lem. "Where we play is going to depend on COVID, obviously — we hope to keep everybody healthy — and it's going to depend on government regulations in terms of where we're going to be able to travel our players and our teams and where we can't," Bettman said. "If we can't travel in Canada, either as among the provinces or from the U.S. to Canada and back, we'll make whatever adjustments we have to do to get the playoffs completed." The earliest a Canadian team would need to play a counterpart in the U.S. under this season's postseason format

would be in June, though there has been speculation about the first two rounds of the North Division playoffs happening in a quarantined bubble. That could even be in the U.S., where 23 of 24 teams now have fans in attendance.

Another possibility is moving the North winner to a U.S. hub city for home games when the playoffs reach the semifinals, which is guaranteed to have three American teams and one from Canada. That hub city could then be used for part of the Stanley Cup Final if a Canadian team qualifies. Canada has so far lagged behind in vaccinating peo-




Cardboard cutouts of fans are displayed in the seats before an NHL hockey game between the Vancouver Canucks and the Toronto Maple Leafs in Vancouver, British Columbia, Sunday, April 18, 2021.

Associated Press

ple against COVID-19 compared to the U.S. Canada has fully vaccinated 2.71% of people, while the U.S. is just under 29%. That disparity has prevented the NHL from relaxing virus proto-


cols for teams that reach a certain threshold of vaccination, which is the case with the NBA and Major League Baseball that currently have their Canadian teams playing in the U.S. □







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## Analysis: Coach of the year will be the NBA's top award race



New York Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau gestures during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks, Friday, April 16, 2021, in Dallas.

Associated Press

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

It's almost award-voting season in the NBA, and the best race is the one that not enough people are talking about.

The MVP race between Philadelphia's Joel Embiid and Denver's Nikola Jokic seems like a toss-up, and the realization that one of those two centers will be second-team All-NBA behind the other — they still do All-NBA by position, which makes absolutely no sense in a league that has gone largely position-less — will only add fuel to the anger from the fan base that feels like they were wronged by those results.

There will be great debates about other races as well: most improved player, defensive player of the year and the All-NBA balloting will inevitably lead to cries that some players got overlooked and were wronged. Some of those arguments will probably be right, too. But the best race will be for coach of the year.

The winner will be deserving. So, too, will be about a half-dozen other guys who won't win.

Here are some of the candidates who should be un-

der consideration:

**TOM THIBODEAU, NEW YORK**

He won the award in 2011 after his first season in Chicago and might be on the same path now in his first season in New York. The Knicks are likely going to the playoffs for the first time since 2013. No team allows fewer points per game and the Knicks have a chance to end the season with the league's lowest field-goal percentage allowed for the first time in 21 years. New York is going to finish with a winning record — amazing, when considering that over the six most recent seasons they had the lowest winning percentage in the NBA.

**MONTY WILLIAMS, PHOENIX**

Some will say that the Suns' rise to the No. 2 spot in the Western Conference is largely because of the arrival of Chris Paul, and that's partly true. But don't forget how Williams planted the seeds for success this year by that 8-0 record in the NBA's restart bubble last summer. That allowed the Suns to start thinking big, and Paul coming aboard allowed them to start winning big — but Williams is the one running things.

The Suns are going to the playoffs for the first time since 2010. And the fact that they're not squeaking in should add serious legitimacy to Williams' case.

**NATE MCMILLAN, ATLANTA**

He didn't want to coach the Hawks, which would only add to the greatness of the story if the voters decide that McMillan has done the best coaching job this season. McMillan took over two months ago when Lloyd Pierce got fired and Atlanta was floundering; the Hawks are 20-8 under McMillan and are a serious contender for home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. He'd be the first interim coach to win the award after taking the job only after Pierce — who had him as an assistant in Atlanta — gave his blessing.

**STEVE NASH, BROOKLYN**

The Hall of Fame player never got a championship ring from his 18-year NBA career, but he's a serious contender to get one in his first year as a coach. Nash put together a great staff — getting Mike D'Antoni as an assistant was genius — and the Nets are in a race with Philadelphia for the No. 1 seed in the East-

ern Conference. Nash has managed a revolving door of injuries and three enormous personalities with Kyrie Irving, James Harden and Kevin Durant. The New York metro area hasn't had a coach of the year since Pat Riley in 1993; Nash or Thibodeau could change that.

**QUIN SNYDER, UTAH**

It's a virtual certainty that the coach of the team with the best record in the NBA gets serious consideration for the award, and the Jazz are closing in on clinching the No. 1 overall seed for the playoffs. Snyder was second in the 2017-18 coach of the year balloting and has navigated this season without dealing with any major issues — not even as much as a three-game losing streak. Snyder is considered the favorite by at least some

sportsbooks in Las Vegas, which makes it even more puzzling that there doesn't seem to be more buzz for his candidacy.

**SCOTT BROOKS, WASHINGTON**

The Wizards were 0-5 in December, were shut down for two weeks in January because the roster was decimated by virus-related issues and on Valentine's Day they were dead last in the Eastern Conference standings. They're now 10th in the East, in control of the race for the last play-in tournament berth, and no team in its right mind will want to see Russell Westbrook and Bradley Beal coming at them in Round 1 of the playoffs. Brooks, somehow, held the pieces together and got the Wizards playing their best ball now. He deserves a real look. □

## Manfred: 70% of players, on-field staff began vaccination

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Major League Baseball says 70% of players, on-field staff and support personnel have been fully or partially vaccinated for the novel coronavirus.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred made the announcement Tuesday during SporticoLive's online discussion of its estimates to baseball franchise valuations.

In an email to The Associated Press, Manfred said his figure referred to all individuals defined as Tier 1 in MLB's protocols, which includes players, on-field personnel such as managers, coaches and athletic trainers, plus essential personnel who need to be in close proximity, such as translators and media and travel staff. He said the 70% figure includes partial vaccinations for those receiving two-stage vaccines.

"I think we're around 70%. The clubs have worked really hard with their players," Manfred said. "We're continuing to press to try to get everybody up above that kind of 85 (%) number that we think is so important."

MLB told players on March 29 that COVID-19 protocol restrictions would be relaxed when 85% of Tier 1 personnel are vaccinated. □